METHYL ISOTHIOCYANATE

UN 2477

Shipping Name: Methyl isothiocyanate

Other Names: MITC; Vorlex; Methyl mustard; MIT; Isothiocyanic acid, methyl ester

WARNING!
- POISON! BREATHING THE VAPOR OR DUST OR SWALLOWING THE DUST CAN KILL YOU!
- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:
- Highly flammable
- Severely irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs; skin and eye contact can cause severe burns
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE or explode when exposed to fire
- Vapors may travel long distances to ignition sources and flashback
- Vapors in confined areas (e.g., tanks, sewers, buildings) may explode when exposed to fire
- Combustion products include toxic cyanides and sulfur oxides

Awareness and Operational Level Training Response:
- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Stay upwind and uphill
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Isolate the area of release or fire and deny entry
- Remove all ignition sources
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE or explosion
- Evacuate the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:
- Colorless solid
- Horseradish-like odor
- Sinks in water and is sightly soluble in water
- Highly flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Melts at 95° F

Operational Level Training Response:
RELEASE, NO FIRE:
- Cover material to protect from wind, rain or spray
- Prevent material and runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release
- Use large amounts of water to disperse vapors - contain runoff
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:
- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts. Under favorable conditions, experienced crews can use coordinated fog streams to sweep the flames off the surface of the burning material. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into the liquid.
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (unvented container distorts, bulges or shows any other signs of expanding), withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:
- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Decontaminate the victim as follows:
  - Inhalation - remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
  - Skin - remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
  - Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
  - Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Seek medical attention
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

CAS: 556-61-6